1904

46, Gordon Square,
Bloomsbury.

Oct. 25th

Beloved William. This paper delights Mr me & Thoby. Is this the only cheap kind you ordered? as all they have sent besides is some white very thin super-fine paper. & I thought you ordered some cheap small grey. Perhaps it is still to come. I had your letter this morning! I must say you do write rather good letters. Violet even calls them "brilliant" but then her taste is peculiar. I went to see her this morning & stayed to lunch with her. We talked of you a good deal as you might guess & she was very charming. She is hoping to visit you. Ka may not be able to come early next week, as Ozzy has not yet returned & she wants to be at home when he does. But she is writing herself. Thoby & I went to tea with Sir Herbert where we met Harry & Barbara N. She looked quite pretty. But I think it was because she had on a large hat & the light being above, her face was in shade. She was quite nice & is a great friend of Miss Case's. With much the same views I should think of art — She admires Charles Shannon very much & is going to be painted by him. I can't imagine how the cats survive Stephen furniture etc. As it was today, Harry asked her if she liked some tea-cups: of which he has 30 in India — They were hideous & she said so — & it turned out that they were his own special choice. Everything else will be to match

Harry has not changed. He is coming to see me tomorrow morning. But we shall have nothing to say to each other. I will do my best to bring all your ask for tomorrow. Fred sounds charming & I am glad you think he will do the life well. It must be a great help to him to have you to talk to. Of course you understood father better than anyone else did & I hope you will write something that Fred can quote or even put in entirely. I am sure you could. Now I am going to give you a sort of lecture as usual, poor little beast. But I want you to have time to think it over before I see you. I went to see Savage this morning to ask about your sleeping. I hadn't expected to see him. But I did. He has given me a medicine which I shall bring. He was quite charming & I had a long talk about you. I do think he understands you very well & many people do. I told him about your writing something to help Fred & he quite approved of it. The one thing he said which I want you to think about is that he thought you ought to stay out of London & preferably at Cambridge for 2 months. I know this will horrify you but I will tell you what he said & you must judge for yourself. He said that your fortnight in London had brought you very near another serious breakdown & had undone a great deal of the good of your time at Teversal. That you were quite clearly not yet strong enough to stand London. He said that even if you keep very quiet, which it is difficult to do, the atmosphere of hurry & noise must affect you. I told him that you got bored & isolated at Cambridge but he said that that would

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46, Gordon Square,
Bloomsbury.

happen to a certain extent anywhere now & was really partly because you were not well yet. He said that you must being able to sleep showed that you were not night & that you needed all possible quiet & rest to make up for the want of sleep. He told me several details & how you days should be spent - such as resting lying down before dinner - most of which I think you do. But I can tell you those when I see you. The one important thing was about staying away - & that he did say most strongly he said that you had told him that you would do anything to get well - & that in his opinion you ought not to be in London yet. He also said that you were not to be forced to do anything that you must decide for yourself after thinking over his advice. After he had talked to me he said "There is one thing I want to tell you most seriously - I will have no fees." I said he must let us pay him - as we had taken up so much of his time & could do nothing in return. But he then pointed to the photograph he has of Father. & said that he was proud to do anything for his children - & that the only thing he cared about was that you should get well. It was quite extraordinarily nice of him - when one thinks it his being about the greatest man in his subject in England & what his time is worth. He wants to see me again on Friday to hear how you are getting on.

How my own beloved monkey- don't for a imagine that I want you to stay away. I am very lonesome without you & miss you terrible bad. At the same time I do think, after Savage's extraordinary kindness that we ought to consider what he says- I feel that I would willingly spend the next 2 months in a dungeon if at the end of that time we could live up all night & you having to be specially careful - luckily my being dungeoned would do no good. Your letter written on a sofa has just come like an answer to this. I know how you long to be here- but all I can say is, think it over well- you must decide these things for yourself now & think of what will happen in this long run. One thing is that - if you are going to write something for Fred, surely it would be easier for him & for you if you were near him. You could have regular hours for writing & you'd see very little of me. You know I do think it's very kind of her to have you & be ready to have you for any length of time. It would be a great boon to me to have a niece of mine in that way! However I won't try to argue or advise now. I only wanted to tell you what Savage said so that you may make up your mind & not decide in a hurry. We can talk it all over when I see you. I shall come by the 3.10. getting in at 4.27. & will come straight to the Porch where I hope you will keep some tea for me. I suppose I shall be late for Cambridge now.

Yours V.

NYPL

T. PARSONS 3.2.73

Notice the envelope - Can I do anything with your dove?

46, Gordon Square,
Bloomsbury.

Oct. 28th.

Beloved Monkey.

By great good luck I found Savage at home this afternoon - & he granted next to your requests. First he said he did not want you to walk alone. But I explained matters - & he said you might go out for ½ an hour before work & for ½ an hour before lunch - alone - on condition that you did not go to shops - or through streets. For the present that is all he will allow. He quite approves of the Biggleswick idea - He does not like your coming to London between Cambridge & that. But he said he supposed a dentist was a necessity - which I said it was - & so he said you could but he did not want you to stay longer than you can help. He is distressed about the sleep & said it was most tiresome. But he thinks that you had better go on with this medicine & see if it wont make you sleep - He does not want you to try anything else yet. He thinks that things on the whole are going on quite well - but they must go slowly. He wanted to know how you got on with your work - I said that you were sometimes rather bored

(imitated but that was nothing new-
at which he roared with laughter. I think
that was about all he said.

Beatrice came here this evening but-did
not stay long- She is going to the Bull tomorrow
I didnt know what to say about the reason
for her not staying with him- It was rather
awkward- I had to say that him was afraid
of her- but I couldnt understand myself
why him wouldnt have her.
Jack came here (Gerald- They neither of them
had any news- Gustace seems pretty well- Thirsty
(I had a solitary dinner in the servants room.
Tomorrow I think I shall get a dining room
table & carpet- I rather incline to a red plain
one like the shop- It will be very small- Then if
the doors are open between the rooms the carpets
wont clash- Talk of the wolf- I found Mrs
(Mrs R. Vaughan Williams demure card sitting
in the hall- What luck I have missed her. Her
inquisitiveness wont soon kept in check long.
Tomorrow I will do all your commands.

My poor little monkey I hope I wasnt
too dictatorial to you? I feel rather ashamed
of myself now- You are a fool beast really
(very attractive as even your worst enemies
always say- I hope your two solitary
walks will make life easier. I should
think they would soon be allowed to develop
(you with two tapes be a caped beast. How I
wish you slept here. Thats the worry.
Write soon. Yours KS.

WEATHERHEADS THE STATIONERS,
FOR MARKET SQUARE, CAMBRIDGE
TELEPHONE 2524.

Letters from
Vanessa
~~Angelica~~

BELL, Vanessa
15 letters to VW, 1926–36

L S Woolf Esq
Monks House
Rodmell
Lewes, Sussex

(1)

li. Cambridge

Oct/Nov 1904

46, Gordon Square,
Bloomsbury. 29 Oct?

Saturday.

Beloved William

I sent off 3 parcels by
botany. The jewel you will see
isn't exactly what I described
I had mixed it up with
another which has red enamel
but no emerald - the emerald
is larger than I thought &
must be a beauty. The by
me at the back is not clear
set is I suppose it's not so
good. The only drawback to
cutting it for your ring
is that it would have to
be so much smaller, would that
it? which might make
it also much less valuable.

However that you can see about - There may possibly be a stone which unfolds letters among Gerald's lot of jewels. I see that one was left to Stella. so you can do what you like with it.

I sent as many of the miscellaneous letters as I thought could possibly be of any use - There are some others which from quite uninteresting people & not kept on purpose I should think Then there are quantities from Father. & further to each other - which I didn't send as there are such heaps

I cant see how any could be used - they must all be very private - of course I can send them if you like I hope there wont be any very intimate things in the book. Then there are several from Fred himself. Shall I send them? One I sent only because it has something about a life being written in it. I could only find this one drawing. I'll let others may turn up. I wanted to get those things sent off this morning so I didnt wait to look in every place where there might possibly be letters but I think I sent all the most worth sending.

Thirty here one hundred

with Beau for Sunday - SS I
am alone here - Sense Lisle
to say he might come to
tea today - I don't much
expect it - but I have made
the rooms look as nice as
possible so as to make
him see what clever hosts
we are in case he does
come - As there are no chairs
yet to the chairs I have
mounted on some Indian
shawls & brilliant cushions
& put them on some things
They look rather fine &
fantastic against our white
walls -

How are you my own
Monkey - Tell me truly
I miss you terrible bad -
Your Mamma.

NYPL
T. PARSONS 32773

(2) L. Cambridge

(1904)

46, Gordon Square,
Bloomsbury. 30 Oct?

Sunday.

Beloved Monkey.

I hope for a letter from you tomorrow morning. I had none yesterday but perhaps you hardly had had time to write since I saw you. I do long to hear that you are sleeping better. It must make such a difference.

I have been most virtuous today. I spent the morning in struggling with the study. One wades through books which seem to get more & more confused. As they go away I can't do more than collect different kinds roughly together. But that takes

me all over time - I suppose
some day they will be done.
Certainly books are wonderful
things - Even D - though you
many would your learned
nose at me in disdain -
after spending some time
snubbing amongst them - set
to feel a great affection for
the scrubbiest & most battered
volume - I suppose it's from
living in a book loving family
I feel happy & content sitting
on the floor in an ocean of
calf - This afternoon I went
to the Fishers - To my horror
on going into the drawing room
upstairs 3 huge creatures -
2 Boo - They were JD - Heaney

I Tom - Aunt Mary was also there Uncle almost the same She was affectionate but rather foolish - So I Boo disappeared at once - I had tea with the rest - Tom is really very nice as you said - Aunt Mr Dickson came in - I Tom unlike an ordinary fisher. Kept up the conversation with him & with me - Harvey did not say much I looked as cracky as usual - He seems to be all right again. Mr Dickson drove me back here in his motor - I Tom came too - I came in I saw over the house - He is really much better than the rest of the family - & much improved in looks - So improved & spotty & huge - but quite well made & contained

He is in great doubt whether to go on with surveying or to become solicitor. I asked him to come here again which he is going to do.

George did come to tea yesterday. He was looking very well & beaming. He now calls me "Darling" every two minutes – otherwise there is no change. He is still capable of laughing at Margaret & his in-laws. Which is a good thing. Margaret seems to spend all her day on the sofa – they have not got a house yet. He thought this girl charming –

Yours
LS.

NYPL

T. Parsons 3.2.73

1904

46, Gordon Square,
Bloomsbury.

Oct. 31st

Beloved William.

I have just had your letter written on the sofa -. My poor little monkey. I'm afraid you have been very bad - I do hope you have been keeping quiet - You know it is really important to rest at such times - not only on the day itself but for the first few days - Traill told me it was most necessary that you should - It may have made a difference to your sleep - Perhaps that will get better now its over - but I am bothered about that.

I haven't seen Beatrice but I hope I shall soon & shall hear how you seemed. I have just had a letter from Madge — delighted to have you. I wrote to her as I thought it would be more polite if I did too. & I suggested that I should come with you for a day or two just to see them & see that you were comfortable — so perhaps I might. She says we are not to let such delightful plans fall through — that you shall have a kitchen table in your room & do just what you like — play with the children or be a hermit

It all sounds so if it might be what you would like. She says there are no stores! I have just been dining alone with Violet & Ozzy - Violet wants to go to Cambridge on Saturday. They were full of inquisitiveness about you. Ozzy is really very nice - quite simple & friendly. Violet as usual charming. I dont at all fear that you & Fred will say too much though I own that I was a little alarmed by his wanting to have 25 many family letters - However its you who read them first & of course its necessary for him to know everything even if he makes no use of it. I am glad that I shall never be celebrated enough to have

my life written - It wouldent matter to myself though - But there's something horrible to me, which I expect the true literary mind does not feel any sympathy with. in any third person reading what was meant to be only between two. I shall burn all my letters some day. I think I shall come by the same train on Wednesday - Yours S.

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T. PARSONS 3.2.73

(1904)

46, Gordon Square,
Bloomsbury.

Nov. 1st

My own Monkey.

It certainly sounds as if you had better not take the medicine as it only makes you feel bad the next morning & does no good. I wish to goodness you got more sleep. You will soon see Savage for yourself.

I have sold our furniture to Harrods - for £48. It is more than Maple's & Mawer & Stephenson said they would not give anything like £50 which I

16 Gordon Square
Bloomsbury

but then we had been offered by someone else - I think £48 is good. Just as the things are worthless -

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I have been hanging pictures in the hall - I hope you approve - but they can easily be taken down if you don't. On the right hand side as you come in I have put a row of celebrities 1 - Herschell - Aunt Julia's photograph 2. Lowell - 3. Darwin - 4 Father - Mrs Meyers - 5. Tennyson - 6. Browning # 7. Meredith - Watts portrait -

then on the opposite side I have put 5 of the best Aunt Julia photographs of Mother - They look very beautiful all together - You will soon be here to see how it all looks.
I have looked for the Damn Mt couldn't find it. However I'll look again. & I'll bring the letters you ask for
Tomorrow at about 5 I shall walk in & I shall be very glad to see my monkey - It's really rather lonely here as I am generally alone - Thirty is not every night - I have only nice kind dinners with him. It will be very nice when you & I have

luncheons & dinners alone
in our little white dining
room. Yours Marion.

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T. PARSONS 3-1-23